

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02434 061126Z

12

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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P 061100Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3167

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2434

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: 1968/69 TRAVEL ONLY GRANTEE (K.W.B. GUNARATNE)

REF: STATE 177254

1. QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 2 MAY BE GIVEN THESE
GENERAL ANSWERS:

A. APPROX \$2000 IN TRAVEL INVESTED BY US
GOVT; AND \$2800 IN FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE
ABROAD BY GSL.

B. NO POSITION BEING HELD OPEN FOR HIM. HE WROTE
FOUNDATION THAT HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION RATHER
THAN RETURN TO A VETERINARY STAFF JOB ASE RED HIM.

C. IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT SUBJECT WILL FIND EMPLOYMENT
IN SRI LANKA. GUNARATNE HAS HIMSELF INDICATED THERE
ARE OPENINGS IN HIS FIELD AND WE QUOTE EXTRACTS OF
TWO LETTERS FROM HIM TO FOUNDATION SECRETARY
FERNANDO:

(DEC 8, 1969) "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE
COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY ME IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE
DEVELOPING FOOD INDUSTRY IN MY COUNTRY WHERE I AM THE
FIRST VETERINARIAN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A PHD IN
FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WITH MY TRAINING, WHEN
COMPLETED, I WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE A LOT TO
ACHIEVE THE TARGETS OF THE FOOD PRODUCTIONS CAMPAIGN
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IN OUR COUNTRY.

(JAN 1, 1970) " PERSONALLY I AM OF OPINION THAT MY TRAINING CAN BE UTILIZED IN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, CORPORATION, UNIVERSITY OR PRIVATE SECTOR. TO MENTION A FEW WHICH HAVE FOOD WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THEIR WORK ARE: MARKETING, HEALTH, EDUCATION, INDUSTRIES, GOVT ANALYST'S, EXPORT IMPORT, QUARANTINE, PORT COMMISSION, MUNICIPALITIES, OILS & FATS CORP, COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME UP SOON, ANY ONE OF THE UNIVERSITIES, CISIRI, FISHERIES CORP, MILK BOARD, HOTEL CORP AND TOURIST BOARD."

2. GUNARATNE'S CASE STRIKES FOUNDATION AS SIMPLE BRAIN DRAIN. HE NOW POSSESSES PHD IN FIELD OF IMPORTANCE TO GSL, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW HIS PROFESSED DESIRE TO SERVE HERE HAS SHOULD FULFILL FULBRIGHT COMMITMENT. GIVEN HIS FIELD FOUNDATION WAS SURPRISED THAT EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA PRESENTED A 'NO OBJECTION' LETTER TO GUNARATNE'S REQUEST FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS IN US. FOUNDATION RECORDS INDICATE THAT SUBJECT'S EXTENSIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON UNDERSTANDING HE WOULD RETURN.

3. FYI: IIE IN MAY INSTRUCTED US TO ISSUE RETURN TRAVEL PORTION OF AIR TICKET (ON GUNARATNE REQUEST) AND THIS TICKET WAS TELEXED BY PANAM TO GUNARATNE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB02434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-0073
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacnuij.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 177254
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 DEC 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1968/69 TRAVEL ONLY GRANTEE (K.W.B. GUNARATNE)
TAGS: OEXC, CE, (GUNARATINE, K W B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006